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Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference

Proposed organization of work of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (New York, 1-3 June 2009)

Note by the Secretariat*

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/239, endorsed the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which stated that the United Nations would hold a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, to be organized by the President of the General Assembly, with the modalities to be defined by March 2009 at the latest.

2. The arrangements set out below have been formulated on the basis of General Assembly resolution 63/277, taking into account the experience at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December 2008.

3. The following annexes are attached to the present note:

(a) Annex I. Provisional rules of procedure;

(b) Annex II. Provisional agenda;

(c) Annex III. Proposed timetable for the work of the Conference.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/277, the present note was prepared by the Secretariat in close collaboration with the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

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II. Election of officers

4. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 26 Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman of the Main Committee if established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. Rule 11 provides that the General Committee shall be composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee if established in accordance with rule 46. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

5. In its resolution 63/277, the General Assembly decided that the Conference will be presided over by the President of the General Assembly. It is proposed that the composition of the General Committee of the Conference be based on that of the General Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-third session, which was composed of the President (Nicaragua), 21 Vice-Presidents (Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, China, Egypt, France, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Spain, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) and Chairmen of the six Main Committees (Argentina, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, the Netherlands and Nigeria).

III. Adoption of the rules of procedure

6. The Conference will have before it for adoption the provisional rules of procedure (annex I).

IV. Adoption of the agenda

7. The Conference will also have before it for adoption the provisional agenda (annex II).

V. Organization of work

A. Dates and venue

8. The Conference will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 1 to 3 June 2009.

B. Allocation of items

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/277, it is proposed that the Conference organize its work around six plenary meetings and four interactive round tables (see annex III). It is proposed that items 1 to 8 (a), 10 and 11 of the provisional agenda be considered in plenary meetings and that item 8 (b) be allocated to the Main Committee if established in accordance with rule 46 of the

rules of procedure. Discussions on the outcome document of the Conference, under item 8 (b), will be held in the Main Committee, while the general debate, under item 8 (a), will be held in plenary meetings. The four round tables, under items 9 (a) to (d), will be held concurrently with plenary meetings and the Main Committee.

C. Plenary meetings

10. It is proposed that two plenary meetings be held each day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. All plenary meetings will be held in the General Assembly Hall. At these meetings, Heads of State or Government, ministers and heads of delegations attending the Conference will be able to make formal statements, on the understanding that the principle of precedence will be strictly applied. Each oral statement will be limited to five minutes, although this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts. No delegation will be allowed to speak more than once during the general exchange of views. The opening of the list of speakers will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

11. The opening plenary meeting during the morning of Monday, 1 June, will begin with the formal opening of the Conference by the Secretary-General followed by the election of the President. Opening statements will be made by the President of the Conference and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The meeting will also consider all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of officers other than the President, the establishment of the Main Committee, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference.

12. The closing plenary in the afternoon of Wednesday, 3 June, is expected to conclude with the adoption of the outcome document and of the report of the Conference.

D. Main Committee

13. It is proposed that the Main Committee meet from the afternoon of Monday, 1 June, through the morning of Wednesday, 3 June, if required. The schedule of meetings of the Main Committee will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*. The Main Committee will be seized with finalizing the outcome document of the Conference.

14. The Chairman of the Main Committee will be elected by the Conference in accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure. In accordance with the provisions of rule 49, the Main Committee will elect its own officers. It is recommended that agreement be reached on the slate of candidates for posts falling within the ambit of the Main Committee before the opening of the Conference, thus permitting elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement of a secret ballot. To that end, it is suggested that the President of the General Assembly may wish to nominate the two co-facilitators, appointed for the substantive preparation of the Conference, to assume the role of the co-chairmen, subject to the approval of the Conference.

E. Round tables

15. It is proposed that the four interactive round tables be held on Monday, 1 June, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, 2 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday, 2 June, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, 3 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All the round tables will be held in Conference Room 4.

16. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/277, it is proposed that the round tables be held under the overall theme "Examining and overcoming the deepening world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development" and address the main issues before the Conference, as follows:

(a) Round table 1: Present and future impacts of the crisis on, inter alia, employment, trade, investment and development, including the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Round table 2: Coordinated and collaborative actions and appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of the crisis on development;

(c) Round table 3: The role of the United Nations and its Member States in the ongoing international discussions on reforming and strengthening the international financial and economic system and architecture;

(d) Round table 4: Contributions of the United Nations development system in response to the crisis.

17. Each round table will be co-chaired by two chairmen to be appointed by the President of the Conference from among the Heads of State or Government and ministers attending the Conference, including those nominated by the regional groups, comprising a total of eight co-chairmen, four to be drawn from developing countries and four to be drawn from developed countries and countries with economies in transition. High-level officials from the relevant institutional stakeholders will be invited to act as moderators and/or panellists at the round tables.

18. Each round table will be open to participation by representatives of all Member States; 21 representatives of observers, relevant entities of the United Nations system and other accredited intergovernmental organizations; 5 representatives of accredited civil society organizations; and 5 representatives of accredited business sector entities. Each representative may be accompanied by one adviser. The list of non-State participants in the round tables will be established on a first-come, first-served basis. The opening of the inscription of non-State entities for participation in the round tables will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

19. Each round table will include an initial panel discussion, organized by the Office of the President of the General Assembly with the support of the Secretariat, comprising four or five high-level panellists and a moderator. The panel discussion will be followed by an interactive debate among Member States and other relevant stakeholders. No list of speakers will be established. Each oral intervention will be limited to three minutes, although this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts.

F. Timetable for the work of the Conference

20. The proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in annex III.

G. Organization of meetings

21. The resources available to the Conference allow for a maximum of two simultaneous meetings in the morning and two in the afternoon, with interpretation facilities, including committees, round tables, working groups and informal consultations. Interpretation facilities can be provided to regional group meetings only when they are held in place of formal meetings or if those facilities are otherwise available.

22. In accordance with the provisions of rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference may establish, in addition to the Main Committee, such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. Each committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

VI. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

23. Rule 3 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General, if possible, not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of the European Community, by the President of the European Commission.

24. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, which consisted of the following Member States: Botswana, China, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mozambique, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the United States of America. The Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

VII. Participants

A. Member States and observers

25. The Conference, including the plenary and informal meetings, will be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, as well as intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers in the sessions and

work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

B. Institutional stakeholders

26. Other relevant intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development and its follow-up process, including the Doha Review Conference, as well as relevant organizations of the United Nations system, may participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

27. In addition, interested intergovernmental organizations that were not accredited to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, its follow-up process or the Doha Review Conference may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.

28. The above arrangements concerning participation of institutional stakeholders in the Conference will in no way create a precedent for meetings of the General Assembly.

C. Civil society and the business sector

29. Non-governmental organizations and business sector entities are invited to participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference. Registration will be open to: (a) all non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and (b) all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities that have been accredited to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development or its follow-up process, including the Doha Review Conference.

30. In addition, interested non-governmental organizations and business sector entities that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or were not accredited to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, its follow-up process or the Doha Review Conference may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.

31. The above arrangements concerning participation of non-governmental organizations and business sector entities in the Conference will in no way create a precedent for meetings of the General Assembly.

VIII. Secretariat

32. The responsibilities of the secretariat of the Conference are set out in rules 14 to 16 of the provisional rules of procedure.

IX. Documentation

33. The official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

A. Pre-session documentation

34. Pre-session documentation will include:

(a) Provisional agenda (A/CONF.214/1);

(b) Provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.214/2);

(c) Note by the President of the General Assembly transmitting the draft outcome document of the Conference (A/CONF.214/3);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development (A/CONF.214/4);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on organizational and procedural matters (A/CONF.214/5);

(f) Information for participants (A/CONF.214/INF/1).

B. In-session documentation

35. In-session documentation will include:

(a) Official (verbatim) records of plenary meetings (A/CONF.214/PV.1-6);

(b) Draft report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.214/6);

(c) Note by the Secretariat transmitting summaries of the round-table discussions (A/CONF.214/7 and addenda):

(i) Summary of round table 1 (A/CONF.214/7/Add.1);

(ii) Summary of round table 2 (A/CONF.214/7/Add.2);

(iii) Summary of round table 3 (A/CONF.214/7/Add.3);

(iv) Summary of round table 4 (A/CONF.214/7/Add.4);

(d) Draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.214/8);

(e) Draft resolution on the outcome of the Conference (A/CONF.214/L.1);

(f) Provisional list of delegations to the Conference (A/CONF.214/INF/2).

C. Post-session documentation

36. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a repertorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken in plenary meetings.

37. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/277, provided, inter alia, that the Conference would result in a concise outcome to be agreed by Member States and would also result in summaries of the round-table discussions, to be included in the final report of the Conference.

D. Inputs from all relevant stakeholders

38. Background information for the Conference, including inputs received from all relevant stakeholders, will be posted on the Conference website.

X. Side events

39. Special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to the theme of the Conference may be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders for the benefit of the participants in the Conference. The calendar of those events will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations* and will also be posted on the Conference website.

XI. Media coverage

40. Press materials for journalists covering the Conference will be prepared by the Department of Public Information. In addition, the documents counter in the media area will provide all Conference documents, as well as press releases on its plenary meetings, round tables and other events. They will also be made available electronically on the Conference website.

41. The plenary meetings and round tables, as well as press conferences, will be broadcast live into the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

XII. Action by the General Assembly

42. **In order to facilitate and expedite the preparatory work for the Conference, the General Assembly may wish to take appropriate action on the proposals contained in the present note and its annexes by the end of April 2009.**

Annex I

Provisional rules of procedure for the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

I. Representation and credentials

Rule 1
Composition of delegations

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference and that of the European Community shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 2
Alternates and advisers

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Rule 3
Submission of credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of the European Community, by the President of the European Commission.

Rule 4
Credentials Committee

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-third session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

Rule 5
Provisional participation in the Conference

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. Officers

Rule 6
Elections

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 26 Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman of the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Rule 7
General powers of the President

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, direct the discussions, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his/her functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Rule 8
Acting President

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he/she shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his/her place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 9
Replacement of the President

If the President is unable to perform his/her functions, a new President shall be elected.

Rule 10
Voting rights of the President

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of his/her delegation to vote in his/her place.

III. General Committee

Rule 11
Composition

The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee shall constitute the General Committee. The President, or in his/her absence one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him/her, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

Rule 12
Substitute members

If the President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he/she may designate a member of his/her delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chairman of the Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chairman of that Committee as his/her substitute. When serving on the General Committee, a Vice-Chairman of the Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he/she is of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

Rule 13
Functions

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. Secretariat of the Conference

Rule 14
Duties of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or his/her designated representative shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his/her place at these meetings.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Rule 15
Duties of the secretariat

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

(a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;

(b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;

(d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings;

(f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;

(g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Rule 16
Statements by the secretariat

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, or any member of the secretariat designated for that purpose, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. Opening of the Conference

Rule 17
Temporary President

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in his absence, any member of the secretariat designated by him for that purpose, shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

Rule 18
Decisions concerning organization

The Conference shall at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. Conduct of business

Rule 19
Quorum

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Rule 20
Speeches

1. No representative may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the

President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour of and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him/her to order without delay.

Rule 21
Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 22
Precedence

The Chairman or Rapporteur of the Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Rule 23
Closing of the list of speakers

During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Rule 24
Right of reply

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference or of the European Community who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.

2. The statements made under this rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.

3. The representatives of a State or of the European Community may make no more than two statements under this rule at a given meeting on any item. The first

shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall in any event attempt to be as brief as possible.

Rule 25
Adjournment of debate

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour and two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 26
Closure of debate

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his/her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 27
Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Subject to rule 38, a representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 28
Order of motions

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Rule 29
Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General or his designated representative, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though these amendments have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

Rule 30
Withdrawal of proposals and motions

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 31
Decisions on competence

Subject to rule 28, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Rule 32
Reconsideration of proposals

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded to only two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. Decision-making

Rule 33
General agreement (consensus)

The Conference shall make its best endeavours to ensure that the work of the Conference is accomplished by general agreement (consensus).

Rule 34
Voting rights

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Rule 35
Majority required

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting.

2. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 36
Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Rule 37
Method of voting

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Rule 38
Conduct during voting

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Rule 39
Explanation of vote

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, unless it has been amended.

Rule 40
Division of proposals

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour of and two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 41
Amendments

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be regarded as including amendments.

Rule 42
Order of voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Rule 43
Order of voting on proposals

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be regarded as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 44

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or slate.

Rule 45

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes, shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, in a number not exceeding twice the number of places remaining to be filled.

VIII. Subsidiary bodies

Rule 46
Main Committee

The Conference may establish a Main Committee as required, which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Rule 47
Representation on the Main Committee

Each State participating in the Conference and the European Community may be represented by one representative on the Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to the Committee such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Other committees and working groups

Rule 48

1. In addition to the Main Committee referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Each committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Rule 49

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the committee in question, subject to the approval of that committee, unless the committee decides otherwise.

Rule 50
Officers

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Rule 51
Quorum

1. The Chairman of the Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the General or Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum, provided that they are representatives of participating States.

Rule 52
Officers, conduct of business and voting

The rules contained in sections II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(a) The Chairmen of the General and Credentials Committees and the Chairmen of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote, provided that they are representatives of participating States;

(b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. Languages and records

Rule 53
Languages of the Conference

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Rule 54
Interpretation

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Rule 55
Languages of official documents

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

Rule 56
Sound recordings of meetings

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of the Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any working group thereof.

X. Public and private meetings

General principles

Rule 57

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the Plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the Plenary.

Rule 58

As a general rule, meetings of the General Committee, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

Rule 59
Communiqués on private meetings

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General or his designated representative.

XI. Other participants and observers

Rule 60
Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices

Save where otherwise specifically provided with respect to the European Community in these rules of procedure, representatives designated by intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Rule 61
Representatives of the specialized agencies and related organizations

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies and related organizations[a] may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities. The representatives of the relevant international financial and trade institutions shall be invited to participate in the Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/277.

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[a] These include the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Trade Organization, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Rule 62
Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations accredited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 63
Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 64
Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee and to participate in the deliberations of the round tables.

Rule 65
Representatives of business sector entities

Business sector entities accredited to participate in the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee and to participate in the deliberations of the round tables.

Rule 66
Associate members of regional commissions

Representatives designated by associate members of regional commissions[b] may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Rule 67
Written statements

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 66 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the language in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization or business sector entity is related to the work of the Conference and is on a subject in which the organization has a special competence.

[b] American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands.

XII. Suspension and amendment of the rules of procedure

Rule 68
Method of suspension

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Rule 69
Method of amendment

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

Annex II

Provisional agenda of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
   (a) Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development:
   (a) General exchange of views on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development;
   (b) Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Conference.
9. Interactive round tables under the overall theme "Examining and overcoming the deepening world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development", focusing on the main issues before the Conference:
   (a) Present and future impacts of the crisis on, inter alia, employment, trade, investment and development, including the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals (round table 1);
   (b) Coordinated and collaborative actions and appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of the crisis on development (round table 2);
   (c) The role of the United Nations and its Member States in the ongoing international discussions on reforming and strengthening the international financial and economic system and architecture (round table 3);
   (d) Contributions of the United Nations development system in response to the crisis (round table 4).
10. Adoption of the outcome document of the Conference.
11. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

Annex III

Proposed timetable for the work of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Monday, 1 June		
Opening plenary meeting		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1	Opening of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations
	2	Election of the President
	1	Opening statements by the President of the Conference and the Secretary-General of the United Nations
	3	Adoption of the rules of procedure
	4	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	5	Election of officers other than the President
	6	Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee
	7 (a)	Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of members of the Credentials Committee
	8 (a)	General exchange of views on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development
		Statements by Heads of State or Government, ministers and heads of delegation
Plenary meeting		
3-6 p.m.	8 (a)	General exchange of views on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development
		Statements by Heads of State or Government, ministers and heads of delegation
Main Committee[a]		
3-6 p.m.	8 (b)	Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Conference

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Round tables		
3-6 p.m.	9 (a)	Round table 1: Present and future impacts of the crisis on, inter alia, employment, trade, investment and development, including the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals
Tuesday, 2 June		
Plenary meeting		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8 (a)	General exchange of views on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development Statements by Heads of State or Government, ministers and heads of delegation
Main Committee[a]		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8 (b)	Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Conference
Round tables		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	9 (b)	Round table 2: Coordinated and collaborative actions and appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of the crisis on development
Plenary meeting		
3-6 p.m.	8 (a)	General exchange of views on reviewing the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development Statements by Heads of State or Government, ministers and heads of delegation
Main Committee[a]		
3-6 p.m.	8 (b)	Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Conference
Round tables		
3-6 p.m.	9 (c)	Round table 3: The role of the United Nations and its Member States in the ongoing international discussions on reforming and strengthening the international financial and economic system and architecture

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Wednesday, 3 June		
Plenary meeting		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8 (a)	General exchange of views on reviewing the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development
		Statements by Heads of State or Government, ministers and heads of delegation
Main Committee[a]		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8 (b)	Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Conference
Round tables		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	9 (d)	Round table 4: Contributions of the United Nations development system in response to the crisis
Closing plenary meeting		
3-6 p.m.	7 (b)	Credentials of representatives to the Conference: report of the Credentials Committee
	10	Adoption of the outcome document of the Conference
	11	Adoption of the report of the Conference
		Closing of the Conference

[a] As required, subject to the provisions of paragraph 21 in the body of the report above.

United Nations A/63/826

General Assembly

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21 April 2009

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 104 (c)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 17 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has submitted its candidature for membership in the Human Rights Council for the term 2009-2011 at the elections to be held on 12 May 2009 during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

In this regard, kindly find attached a document containing the voluntary human rights pledges and commitments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Mohammed F. **Al-Allaf**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-30875 (E) 230409

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 17 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Jordan's pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

The promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedom for all continues to be a high priority for Jordan. This commitment has been reaffirmed by the Jordanian leadership at the highest level. Hence, while seeking re-election, Jordan would like to confirm its commitment to the following.

I. The promotion and protection of human rights

Ever since Jordan's election to the Human Rights Council in 2006, concrete actions have been taken to integrate all human rights norms and principles into national laws and legislations. These are some examples:

1. The amendment of article 208 of the Jordanian Penal Code relating to torture in order to make it compatible with the definition of torture in the Convention against Torture.

2. Withdrawing reservation to article 15/4 of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, while at the same time consideration is being given to removing reservations on certain subparagraphs of article 16.

3. The promulgation of the new Law on Combating Trafficking in Humans of 2009.

4. The enactment of a new Law on the Access to Information. Jordan is the first Arab country to have such a law that ensures the right to access to information while protecting the right of the individual to privacy.

5. The enactment of two laws pertaining to the right of people to peaceful assembly and the right to form associations.

6. The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

7. The enactment in 2007 of the Press and Publication Law as well as the Law on Political Parties.

II. Institutional framework

To put these laws into effect, the authorities have established a strong institutional framework for the protection of human rights. In addition to impartial and independent courts, human rights are monitored by a number of other institutions and agencies such as the National Centre for Human Rights and the Ombudsman's Bureau. The latter was established in 2008 by a special law in order to deal with individuals' complaints against civil administration and injustices that may be practised by the latter. Also, a senior position for human rights is being

established in order to oversee all governmental activates in this domain and to ensure interdepartmental coordination. It will also provide advice to the authorities on ways and means to further promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In addition, a strong partnership between the Government and civil society has been established. Among the fruits of this partnership Jordan has played host to several seminars and workshops on various human rights issues, especially women and children rights, freedom of expression and other social and economic rights. Human rights education has also been integrated into formal school curricula.

III. Cooperation with the Human Rights Council

Jordan has been an active and fully involved founding member of the Human Rights Council, and throughout the first three years of its establishment, has played a leading role in the formation of its work.

During the first year of the life of the Council, a representative of Jordan served as one of the Vice-Chairpersons as well as the Rapporteur. In addition, Jordan's full involvement can be seen by the contribution it made in the following:

1. President and Special Rapporteur of the first Social Forum under the Human Rights Council.

2. Chair of the Working Group on Situations under the new Council.

3. Chair of the Meeting of States parties for the election of members to the Committee on Torture.

4. Facilitator for the establishment of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

At the same time, Jordan has always joined consensus on all major substantial issues considered by the Council. Furthermore, Jordan gives special attention to the activities of the Council. The fact that Jordan is seeking re-election is an additional testimony of Jordan's keen interest in the work of this body and its main role as an institution responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Throughout the three years of service on the Human Rights Council, Jordan has been a part of all major initiatives to promote intercultural dialogue and human coexistence, and has been active in the promotion of inter-religious and intercultural cooperation for peace.

IV. Cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Jordanian Government has always been keen to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and OHCHR. Accordingly, Jordan hosted the regional seminar on "Upholding Human Rights while Countering Terrorism" from 27 to 29 October 2008, as well as the Fifth Conference of the Arab National Human Rights Institutions on "Elections in the Arab World and their impact on human rights". The two seminars were jointly sponsored by Jordan and OHCHR. Jordan is committed to the continuation of such

cooperation with the High Commissioner and OHCHR. It will host the upcoming annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.

V. Universal periodic review

Jordan attaches great importance to the implementation of the universal periodic review mechanism. Jordan presented its national country report to the Human Rights Council in February 2009. The report highlighted various human rights initiatives and future plans at the national level. Jordan has committed itself to the implementation of all recommendations it accepted when it presented its report.

Jordan is committed to strengthening its relationship with treaty-monitoring bodies and pledges to present its remaining outstanding periodic reports to the relevant committees in due time and to follow up on the recommendations arising from these dialogues.

VI. Cooperation with the special procedures

Jordan remains committed, as it has been in the past, to contributing to the work of the special procedures, and has followed their activities closely through the work of the former Commission on Human Rights and the current Human Rights Council. Consistent with this, Jordan pledges to follow up and, where appropriate, implement their recommendations; at the same time stands ready to cooperate with all mandate holders in the promotion and protection of human rights.

United Nations A/63/827–S/2009/215

General Assembly
Security Council

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23 April 2009
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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 15
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 21 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 1 to 14 April 2009.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-31123 (E) 280409 280409

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 21 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 1 to 14 April 2009

Air violations

On 1 April 2009:

- Between 0835 and 1000 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft circled at a high altitude over the 11th Brigade sector (central sector, south of the Litani river).
- Between 1645 and 2150 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over the sea off Naqurah flying north and circled over Beirut before leaving over Naqurah.

On 3 April 2009, between 0907 and 1825 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 4 April 2009, between 0955 and 2225 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled the South, Rashiya al-Wadi and Riyaq before leaving over Kafr Kila.

On 7 April 2009, between 1620 and 2110 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled the South before leaving over Naqurah.

On 8 April 2009, between 0657 and 1345 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah flying north and circled the South before leaving over Rumaysh.

On 10 April 2009, between 0840 and 1515 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah flying north and circled the South before leaving over Naqurah.

On 11 April 2009:

- Four Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace. At 1030 hours, two of the warplanes entered over the occupied Shab'a Farms, circled over Beirut and the South and left at 1137 hours over the sea off Tripoli, heading in the direction of Turkey. The other two warplanes entered at 1034 hours over Kafr Kila, circled over the entire country and left at 1105 hours over Rumaysh.
- Between 0700 and 1635 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Alma al-Sha'b and circled over the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 12 April 2009, between 1005 and 2040 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Naqurah flying north and circled over the South before leaving over Naqurah.

On 13 April 2009, at 0715 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It entered over Alma al-Sha'b flying north and circled over the South, Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b on 14 April at 0200 hours.

Sea violations

On 3 April 2009, at 0430 hours, an Israeli enemy launch located 100 metres south of buoy no. 3 shone a searchlight for five seconds in the direction of a Lebanese fishing boat located north of the line of buoys. At 0525 hours, the launch shone a searchlight for 30 seconds in the direction of three fishing boats at the same location.

On 13 April 2009, at 2010 hours, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight for seven seconds from its position at Ra's Naqurah in the direction of Lebanese territorial waters to a distance of 300 metres north of the line of buoys (buoy no. 7).

On 14 April 2009, at 2044 hours, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight for five seconds from its position at Ra's Naqurah in the direction of Lebanese territorial waters to a distance of 300 metres north of the line of buoys (buoy no. 2). It did so again for four seconds at 2157 hours.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 1 April 2009, at 1815 hours, an Israeli enemy Merkava tank positioned itself approximately 300 metres from the Blue Line, opposite the Lebanese Army post at Mays al-Jabal. It pointed its gun towards Lebanese territory before leaving at 1830 hours.

Israeli activities

On 4 April 2009, between 0730 and 0735 hours, an Israeli enemy launch fired at seven naval gunnery target balloons. At 0800 hours, one of the target balloons entered Lebanese territorial waters near buoy no. 2. It is believed to have been carried into Lebanese territorial waters by the current.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 21
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 17 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 15 April 2009, addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-31135 (E) 290409

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 17 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 14 April 2009 addressed to you by Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

I have the honour to refer to the prospect of talks between the Greek Cypriot administration and Israel regarding the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas in the Eastern Mediterranean. The prospective talks have been prompted by the preliminary deal reached between the Greek Cypriot administration and the energy company named Noble Energy for drilling to be undertaken in the area known as "Block 12", which is within the so-called exclusive economic zone of Cyprus. Block 12 reportedly lies in proximity to an Israeli site, some 90 km from the port of Haifa in Northern Israel, where drilling by Noble Energy has uncovered large amounts of hydrocarbons. In this connection, I would like to bring to your kind attention the following:

It should be recalled, at the outset, that the attempts by the Greek Cypriot administration to create a fait accompli in the Eastern Mediterranean through unilateral acts, such as delimitation of the exclusive economic zone and conducting exploratory surveys or seismic research activities for oil and gas exploration, are nothing new, as already brought to your kind attention in my letters of 2 February 2007 (A/61/727-S/2007/54) and of 26 November 2008 (A/63/574-S/2008/741). As is known, the Greek Cypriot administration signed a maritime delimitation agreement with Egypt as early as 2003 and with Lebanon in 2007, to which both the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey registered their objections with the United Nations, stating that their legitimate rights in the Eastern Mediterranean were being violated. They also objected to the Greek Cypriot side's attempt to adopt a law identifying 13 oil exploration fields around the island of Cyprus and to its call for an international tender for oil exploration in the so-called exclusive economic zone of Cyprus. As already outlined, it is now widely reported in the Greek Cypriot press that despite our objections, the Greek Cypriot administration has taken the further step of preparing for talks with Israel, with a view to signing a maritime delimitation agreement in order to avoid any overlap in the maritime areas referred to hereinbefore.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize, once again, that the Greek Cypriot side's activities regarding the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas in the Eastern Mediterranean before a comprehensive settlement are aimed at prejudging and violating the fundamental rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriot people, which were the equal co-founding partner in the 1960 Republic of Cyprus and thus have equal rights and say over the natural resources and the sea areas of the island of Cyprus. It should be recalled that the sensitive issue of delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas for Cyprus was an important aspect of the negotiation process under United Nations auspices in 2004. The United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan addressed this subject with the understanding that it is to be determined after a comprehensive political settlement in Cyprus.

Moreover, it must also be noted that the Greek Cypriot administration, purporting to act as if it is the legitimate "Government of the Republic of Cyprus", represents exclusively the Greek Cypriot people and does not have authority to negotiate and conclude agreements, conduct exploratory surveys, pass legislation or grant exploration rights or exploitation licences on behalf of Cyprus as a whole.

I would like to stress that at a time when full-fledged negotiations are ongoing regarding the core issues of a comprehensive settlement, which certainly include the

issue of the maritime jurisdiction areas of the island of Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot agitation to take steps on the matter is part and parcel of chronic attempts by the Greek Cypriot administration to settle the issue outside the negotiation table. These unacceptable and provocative steps, which are oblivious to the rights and interests of Turkish Cypriots not only deepen the gap of confidence between the two sides but could also lead to an escalation of tension between them, thus undermining the chances of a comprehensive settlement on the island. Hence, it is high time that the international community at large and the United Nations in particular urge the Greek Cypriot administration to cease any such activities until the establishment of the new state of affairs in Cyprus.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that the Turkish Cypriot side will continue to take part in the full-fledged negotiations in good faith and do its utmost to reach a comprehensive settlement in 2009, on the basis of the established United Nations parameters and body of work.

(*Signed*) Mehmet Ali **Talat**
President

United Nations A/63/829

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 97
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Note verbale dated 21 April 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to request the issuance of the attached joint letter dated 2 April 2009 from the Permanent Representatives of Bahrain, Belarus, Egypt, Nicaragua and the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 97 (see annex).

09-31111 (E) 280409

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 21 April 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Since the General Assembly, in its resolution 63/194, entitled "Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons" invited all Member States to accelerate the consideration of the advisability of a global plan of action on preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, we believe it is important to address you today on this important issue.

The need for a global plan of action that ensures a collective, comprehensive and coordinated approach towards combating trafficking in persons was emphasized during the thematic debate of the General Assembly on trafficking in persons on 3 June 2008. It has also been a demand advocated by several prominent intergovernmental organizations. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union was a pioneer among intergovernmental bodies in devoting a unanimous decision in this regard during its eleventh summit meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 30 June 2008, as was the Non-Aligned Movement, which gave a clear signal on the importance of the consideration of the matter in its final document adopted at its fifteenth ministerial conference in Tehran on 29 and 30 July 2008.

The need for initiating consultations in the General Assembly on the global plan of action has not been exclusive to one regional group; it was a request by many countries from different regional groups of the United Nations, based on the need to build on existing regional plans of action and to enhance the legal process established by the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocol on trafficking in persons.

The Secretary-General was requested by the General Assembly in the above resolution, to prepare, by 1 June 2009, a background paper on how to achieve the full and effective coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and to ensure the full and effective implementation of all relevant legal instruments. After the background paper is prepared, we believe it will be appropriate to start informal consultations or debate under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly on the issue of the advisability of adopting a United Nations global plan of action and on how to collectively put an end to trafficking in persons as a social and economic phenomenon, which violates all the basic norms, rights and fundamental freedoms of human beings. The debate should be based on the Secretary-General's background paper to be prepared in accordance with resolution 63/194.

We see this debate as a forum for Member States to discuss the issues from all angles and seek a proper way forward on how to work together towards the full elimination of the scourge. In so doing, it is vital that we hear the voices of all interested parties: Member States, the relevant United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other international agencies and non-governmental organizations. It could be conceived as a two-day event starting with a meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons at United Nations Headquarters in New York, to be followed by a debate of the General Assembly. Member States will be interested to hear and discuss the position of the

Inter-Agency Group on this urgent issue with a view to a possible adoption of the global action plan at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

We hope you will give this proposal your favourable consideration and support, and request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Tawfeeq Ahmed **Almansoor**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Maged A. **Abdelaziz**
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Maria **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide**, Jr.
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines
to the United Nations

United Nations A/63/830

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda items 121 and 132

Pattern of conferences

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 9 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 April 2009 addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee on Conferences containing the remarks of the Republic of the Philippines on your report entitled "Action taken to improve the timely submission of documents for the Fifth Committee" (A/63/735) (see annex).

I would like to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 121 and 132.

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide**, Jr.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-31183 (E) 240409

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 9 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the report of the Secretary-General on action taken to improve the timely submission of documents for the Fifth Committee (A/63/735), which is to be discussed by the Committee on Conferences at its organizational session on 7 April 2009. The report narrates the work of the interdepartmental task force on documentation pursuant to the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/248.

The Philippines recognizes the work done thus far by the task force in positively addressing the problem of issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee. The Philippines fully supports the institutionalization of the task force as a standing mechanism to handle the documentation of the Fifth Committee at its subsequent sessions. It expects the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the chair of the task force, to continue to shepherd other Secretariat entities in the right direction and to report on the status of documentation any time it is called upon to do so by the Committee on Conferences.

The Philippines views the task force as one component of a multipronged approach to finding a solution to the perennial difficulties of late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee.

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide**, Jr.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/63/831

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 April 2009

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 104 (c)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 22 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the United States of America has decided to present its candidature for membership in the Human Rights Council for the term 2009-2012 at the elections to be held on 12 May 2009 in New York.

In this regard, the Government of the United States of America has the honour to submit herewith a written pledge of its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex). The Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Assembly.

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**

09-31264 (E) 300409

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 22 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Human rights commitments and pledges of the United States of America

The deep commitment of the United States to championing the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is driven by the founding values of our nation and the conviction that international peace, security and prosperity are strengthened when human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected and protected. As the United States seeks to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world, we do so cognizant of our own commitment to live up to our ideals at home and to meet our international human rights obligations. We therefore make the following pledges:

Commitment to advancing human rights in the United Nations system

1. The United States commits to continuing its efforts in the United Nations system to be a strong advocate for all people around the world who suffer from abuse and oppression, and to be a stalwart defender of courageous individuals across the globe who work, often at great personal risk, on behalf of the rights of others.

2. The United States commits to working with principled determination for a balanced, credible and effective United Nations Human Rights Council to advance the purpose of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To that same end, in partnership with the international community, we fully intend to promote universality, transparency and objectivity in all of the Council's endeavours. The United States commits to participating fully in the universal periodic review process and looks forward to the review in 2010 of its own record in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the United States.

3. The United States is committed to advancing the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the General Assembly and the Third Committee, and in this vein intends to actively participate in the 2011 review by the General Assembly of the work of the Human Rights Council.

4. The United States is also committed to the promotion and protection of human rights through regional organizations. Through our membership in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Organization of American States, the United States commits to continuing efforts to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to strengthening and developing institutions and mechanisms for their protection. In particular recognition of its human rights commitments within the inter-American system, the United States strongly supports the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

5. The United States recognizes and upholds the vital role of civil society and human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights and commits to promoting the effective involvement of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations, including the Human Rights Council, and other international organizations.

6. As part of our commitment to the principle of universality of human rights, the United States commits to working with our international partners in the spirit of openness, consultation and respect and reaffirms that expressions of concern about the human rights situation in any country, our own included, are appropriate matters for international discussion.

Commitment to continue providing support to human rights activities in the United Nations system

1. The United States is committed to continuing its support for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In 2009, the United States intends to pledge $8 million to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its efforts to address violations of human rights worldwide, as well as an additional $1.4 million to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, and more than $7 million to other funds.

2. The United States is also committed to continuing its support of other United Nations bodies whose work contributes to the promotion of human rights. In 2008-2009, the United States has contributed funding to support human rights efforts, inter alia, through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) ($130 million), the United Nations Democracy Fund ($7.9 million) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) ($4.5 million). The United States also supports the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and is contributing $50 million for fiscal year 2009, as provided in the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Commitment to advancing human rights, fundamental freedoms, and human dignity and prosperity internationally

1. The United States commits to continuing to support States in their implementation of human rights obligations, as appropriate, through human rights dialogue, exchange of experts, technical and interregional cooperation, and programmatic support of the work of non-governmental organizations.

2. The United States commits to continuing its efforts to strengthen mechanisms in the international system established to advance the rights, protection and empowerment of women through, for example, supporting the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), on women, peace and security, and all relevant General Assembly resolutions, particularly 61/143 and 63/155, on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women; supporting the work of the Commission on the Status of Women; and supporting the work of the Inter-American Commission on Women.

3. The United States commits to continuing to promote respect for workers' rights worldwide, including by working with other Governments and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to adopt and enforce regulations and laws that promote respect for internationally recognized worker rights and by providing funding for technical assistance projects designed to build the capacity of worker organizations, employers and Governments to address labour issues, including forced labour and the worst forms of child labour, such as child soldiering, workplace discrimination, and sweatshop and exploitative working conditions.

4. The United States commits to continuing to advocate a victim-centred and multidisciplinary approach to combating all forms of trafficking in persons and to restoring the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of human trafficking victims.

5. The United States commits to continuing to promote freedom of religion for individuals of all beliefs, particularly members of minority and vulnerable religious groups, through dedicated outreach, advocacy, training and programmatic efforts.

6. The United States is committed to continuing to promote human rights in the fight against HIV/AIDS in a variety of ways, including through promoting the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, fighting against stigma and discrimination, and supporting women's rights. The United States is committed to preventing suffering and saving lives by confronting global health challenges through improving the quality, availability and use of essential health services.

7. The United States is committed to continuing its leadership role in promoting voluntary corporate social responsibility and business and human rights initiatives globally. The United States intends to convene Government, civil society and business stakeholders for the purpose of seeking joint solutions in respect of business and human rights, and to serve as an active participant in key multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

8. Recognizing the essential contributions of independent media in promoting the fundamental freedom of expression, exposing human rights abuses and promoting accountability and transparency in governance, the United States commits to continuing to champion freedom of expression and to promote media freedom and the protection of journalists worldwide.

9. We are dedicated to combating both overt and subtle forms of racism and discrimination internationally. The United States is party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and is committed to seeing the goals of this covenant fully realized. Particular emphasis should be placed not only on eliminating any remaining legal barriers to equality, but also on confronting the reality of continuing discrimination and inequality within institutions and societies.

Commitment to advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms in the United States

1. The United States executive branch is committed to working with its legislative branch to consider the possible ratification of human rights treaties, including but not limited to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ILO Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation.

2. The United States is committed to meeting its United Nations treaty obligations and participating in a meaningful dialogue with treaty body members.

3. The United States is committed to cooperating with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and other regional human rights bodies, by responding to inquiries, engaging in dialogues and hosting visits.

4. The United States is also strongly committed to fighting racism and discrimination, and acts of violence committed because of racial or ethnic hatred. Despite the achievements of the civil rights movement and many years of striving to achieve equal rights for all, racism still exists in our country and we continue to fight it.

5. The United States is committed to continuing to promote human prosperity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons within the United States, including through enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its amendments, engaging religious and community leaders in upholding religious freedom and pluralism, and encouraging the members of the private sector to serve as good corporate citizens both in the United States and overseas.

United Nations A/63/832–S/2009/220

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 April 2009

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 10
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 9 April 2009 from the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Chairperson of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to refer you to the statement by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific configuration in Sierra Leone (PBC/3/SLE/4), issued on the occasion of the signing of a joint communiqué between the leading political parties in Sierra Leone.

The communiqué is the outcome of a bi-party dialogue facilitated by the United Nations in the aftermath of the incidents of inter-party violence in Sierra Leone on 13 to 16 March. It demonstrates a significant shared commitment between the two largest political parties to the consolidation of democracy and peace in Sierra Leone.

In accordance with paragraph 14 of the founding resolutions of the Peacebuilding Commission, we would like to draw your attention to the recommendation addressed to the international community for follow-up action to the joint communiqué.

The Peacebuilding Commission reiterates its determination to provide unflagging support to the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone with a view to securing a future that is free from fear and free from want.

(*Signed*) Heraldo **Muñoz**
Chairperson
Peacebuilding Commission

(*Signed*) John **McNee**
Chairperson
Sierra Leone Configuration
Peacebuilding Commission

09-31276 (E) 280409

Please recycle

United Nations A/63/833

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 April 2009
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 23
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 23 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the protest note of 4 February 2009 transmitted by the Government of the Argentine Republic to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, rejecting the attempt by the United Kingdom to issue postage stamps on behalf of the so-called and illegitimate "governments" of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the alleged "British Antarctic Territory" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 23.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-31455 (E) 290409 290409

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Buenos Aires, 4 February 2009

The Malvinas and South Atlantic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and has the honour to inform it that the Argentine authorities have taken note of the issuance of postage stamps marked "Falkland Islands", "South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands" and "British Antarctic Territory".

In that connection, the Argentine Government rejects the attempt by the British Government to present these territories as having a distinct identity or a status which they do not possess, bearing in mind that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas form an integral part of Argentine national territory and are illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Furthermore, the Argentine Government does not recognize the existence of the so-called "British Antarctic Territory" and reasserts that the Argentine Antarctic Sector forms an integral part of the national territory of the Argentine Republic.

Likewise, the Argentine Government rejects the attempt by the United Kingdom to issue postage stamps on behalf of the alleged and illegal governments of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the so-called "British Antarctic Territory", none of which are recognized by the Argentine Republic.

In addition, the Argentine Government rejects the publicity given to the aforementioned postage stamps by the United Kingdom on the Internet, in that it distorts the geographical, historical and legal reality of the Argentine Republic.

United Nations A/63/833*

General Assembly

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27 April 2009
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 23
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 23 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the protest note of 4 February 2009 transmitted by the Government of the Argentine Republic to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, rejecting the attempt by the United Kingdom to issue postage stamps on behalf of the so-called and illegitimate "governments" of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the alleged "British Antarctic Territory" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 23, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

09-31455* (E) 040509 040509

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Buenos Aires, 4 February 2009

The Malvinas and South Atlantic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and has the honour to inform it that the Argentine authorities have taken note of the issuance of postage stamps marked "Falkland Islands", "South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands" and "British Antarctic Territory".

In that connection, the Argentine Government rejects the attempt by the British Government to present these territories as having a distinct identity or a status which they do not possess, bearing in mind that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas form an integral part of Argentine national territory and are illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Furthermore, the Argentine Government does not recognize the existence of the so-called "British Antarctic Territory" and reasserts that the Argentine Antarctic Sector forms an integral part of the national territory of the Argentine Republic.

Likewise, the Argentine Government rejects the attempt by the United Kingdom to issue postage stamps on behalf of the alleged and illegal governments of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the so-called "British Antarctic Territory", none of which are recognized by the Argentine Republic.

In addition, the Argentine Government rejects the publicity given to the aforementioned postage stamps by the United Kingdom on the Internet, in that it distorts the geographical, historical and legal reality of the Argentine Republic.

The Malvinas and South Atlantic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

United Nations A/63/834

General Assembly

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27 April 2009
English
Original: French

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 104 (c)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 24 April 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, General Assembly Affairs Branch, and has the honour to transmit herewith an aide-memoire on the contribution and commitments of the Government of Senegal in the field of human rights, in connection with the forthcoming elections to the Human Rights Council (see annex).

09-31555 (E) 050509 050509

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Annex to the note verbale dated 24 April 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

Aide-memoire on the contribution and commitments of the Government of Senegal in the field of human rights

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

As it completes its first term as a member of the Human Rights Council, Senegal has decided, particularly in view of its progress in the field of human rights, its active contribution to the work of the Council and the confidence placed in it by the member and observer countries of that institution, to present its candidature for the renewal of its mandate at the elections to be held in May 2009.

I. General framework for the promotion and protection of human rights

Senegal wishes to recall the following elements of its human rights promotion and protection system, with emphasis on its major contributions in this area:

- Since its independence, Senegal has been engaged in building and continually strengthening a State genuinely governed by the rule of law and characterized by the separation of powers, respect for the Constitution and guarantees of the rights set forth therein, strong democratic traditions and stable public institutions;
- Senegal is committed to the universal values of democracy, peace and sustainable development;
- Human rights are central to the Constitution and institutions of Senegal, the only African country to have been a member of the Commission on Human Rights for 26 straight years and again from 1998 to 2003, for a total of 31 years, and to have chaired the Commission on three occasions, in 1968, 1978 and 1988, a history that attests to the international community's continually renewed confidence in Senegal in this area;
- It was during this crucial period in the history of the Commission on Human Rights that important human rights standards were developed and special procedures (working groups, independent experts and special representatives) were introduced to monitor their implementation;
- Senegal played a leading role in the codification of international legal standards, particularly in the areas of human rights and international humanitarian law, by participating actively in the development of instruments such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and contributing to the progressive affirmation of the right to development;

- Human rights and freedoms are enshrined in a wide array of legal instruments in Senegal that provide individuals and groups of individuals with a variety of reliable remedies to ensure the protection of these rights and freedoms and to afford legal certainty to the persons concerned;

- The sanctity of the human person is enshrined in Senegal's Constitution, article 7 of which provides that "the human person is sacred and inviolable. The State has an obligation to respect and protect this inviolability";

- Senegal's constituent assembly, considering the preamble to the Constitution as an integral part of that document, decided to give constitutional status to the international human rights instruments referred to in that preamble, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 18 December 1979; the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989, ratified by Senegal, and its two optional protocols, one on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which entered into force on 18 January 2002, and the other on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which entered into force on 12 February 2002, both of which were signed and ratified by Senegal; and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, adopted in June 1981;

- Senegal is about to complete a major overhaul of its Criminal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Code of Military Justice, with a view to implementing a number of international human rights instruments in order to improve the administration of justice and effectively combat impunity;

- In addition, Senegal has:

  - Abolished the death penalty by Law No. 2004-38 of 10 December 2004, after several decades of de facto abolition;

  - Adopted Law No. 2005-06 of 10 May 2005 for the prevention and punishment of human trafficking and similar practices and for the protection of trafficking victims;

  - Appointed, by Decree No. 2004-657 of 2 June 2004, a High Commissioner for Human Rights and Peacebuilding with ministerial rank;

  - Instituted, by Decree No. 00569 of 6 July 2004, a National Advisory Council on Human Rights consisting of officials of ministerial departments and representatives of non-governmental organizations specializing in human rights, international humanitarian law, women's rights and children's rights, one of whose essential purposes is to help improve the promotion of respect for human rights and a culture of peace.

II. Actions taken since Senegal's election to the Human Rights Council in 2006

- Senegal has signed or ratified the following international human rights instruments:

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ratified on 20 September 2006);
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
- On 9 April 2009 the Government of Senegal adopted a draft law authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, both of which were signed by Senegal on 25 April 2008;
- On 6 February 2007, Senegal was one of the 57 countries that were the first to sign, in Paris, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 2006; on 28 November 2008 Senegal became the first African country to ratify that instrument.

– The domestic legal reforms adopted to implement various international human rights instruments include the following:

- Law No. 2007-02 and Law No. 2007-05 of 12 February 2007 amending, respectively, the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure and providing for the implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- Law No. 2009-13 of 2 March 2009 establishing a national monitoring body for places of deprivation of liberty. The role of this fully independent institution, the first of its kind in Africa, is to prevent acts of torture in places of detention and to ensure that such facilities meet international standards.

– Regarding the promotion of women's rights, Senegal:

- Authorized, through Decree No. 2007-1244 of 19 October on the recruitment of women, the access of women to key sectors of the Senegalese army;
- Provided, through Decree No. 2008-01 of 8 January 2008 amending some provisions of the general tax code, for equal taxation for men and women. Heretofore, working married women with the same family circumstances and earning the same salary paid higher taxes than men;
- Established, through Decree No. 2008-1047 of 15 September 2008, women's rights watch to protect and promote women's rights.

– The protection and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights also constitute a key pillar of the Senegalese Government's policy. Senegal has:

- Allocated 10 per cent of its national budget to the health sector and implemented an ambitious plan — "plan sésame" — under which senior citizens receive free health care;
- Allocated 40 per cent of its national budget to the education sector and considerably increased the number of schools and universities;

- Launched, on 23 April 2008, a comprehensive agricultural recovery programme known as "a major drive for agriculture, food and abundance" (GOANA) designed to boost the production of key staple crops so as to attain food self-sufficiency and guarantee the right to food.

– As far as the strengthening of bodies responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights is concerned, Senegal:

- Attended all the regular and special sessions of the Human Rights Council and actively participated in building and enhancing its institutional framework;

- Agreed, upon the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to host, free of charge, a regional OHCHR office for West Africa in Dakar, which was inaugurated in December 2007;

- Accepted the requests by special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, to visit the country.

In that regard, Senegal, whose report was examined under the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council on 6 February 2009, welcomes the positive feedback from nearly all members of the Council, as reflected in the many plaudits earned by the Government of Senegal.

In view of the strides it has made in the field of human rights and its active and positive contribution to the work of the Human Rights Council, Senegal has decided to present its candidature for the renewal of its mandate at the elections to be held on 12 May 2009.

III. Renewed commitment to enhanced promotion and protection of human rights

Senegal pledges to:

– Scrupulously abide by all the conventions and protocols on human rights, most of which it has ratified, so as to build on achievements in that area;

– To ratify in 2009 the following international instruments on human rights:

- The Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity;

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol thereto.

– Strengthen the promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights by:

- Continuing to allocate 40 per cent of its national sector to the education sector, to build more schools and universities and to give special attention to the enrolment of girls in order to achieve universal education;

- Continuing to provide free health care to senior citizens and creating the conditions for providing better care for persons with disabilities in

accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

- Stepping up its efforts to reduce maternal mortality, especially in rural areas, and continuing to provide free antiretroviral drugs to persons living with AIDS;
- Ensuring that the rights of individuals are scrupulously respected in accordance with the fundamental cultural and moral values of the Senegalese nation.

– Provide support to human rights bodies by:

- Continuing, as in the past, to receive visits by special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council by providing them with facilities and support in the discharge of their mandates;
- Meeting the deadlines for the submission to treaty monitoring bodies of periodic reports on the implementation of relevant international human rights instruments;
- Continuing to submit reports under the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council as previously;
- Continuing and strengthening its active cooperation and consultations with both national and international non-governmental organizations;
- Continuing to combat impunity through its own courts and through international criminal jurisdictions, while contributing to the enforcement of decisions by such jurisdictions, including by entering into agreements for the enforcement of sentences or any other relevant agreement with such jurisdictions.

United Nations A/63/835

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 April 2009
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 20, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 61, 62, 63, 64, 97, 98, 107

The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Culture of peace

Macroeconomic policy questions

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference

Sustainable development

Globalization and interdependence

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development

Social development

Advancement of women

Indigenous issues

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Right of peoples to self-determination

Promotion and protection of human rights

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

09-31573 (E) 300409 010509

Please recycle

Letter dated 24 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Permanent Representative of the Government of Nicaragua, which, in the person of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, holds the presidency pro tempore of the Central American Integration System, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System on the meeting between the Presidents of the Isthmus and the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, adopted at the Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago on 17 and 18 April 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this document distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 20, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 61, 62, 63, 64, 97, 98 and 107.

(*Signed*) María **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 24 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the Central American Integration System on the meeting between the Presidents of the Isthmus and the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, adopted at the Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago on 17 and 18 April 2009

The Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA), gathered in Trinidad and Tobago on the occasion of their meeting with the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, considered the following issues to be key priorities for an agenda of dialogue and cooperation between the SICA countries and the United States of America:

1. Support for recapitalization of the Inter-American Development Bank;

2. Support for the strengthening of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration through lines of credit and loan negotiation;

3. Provision of financial resources to United States companies and other companies that operate in the SICA countries within the framework of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) and support for ratification of the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement;

4. An end to large-scale deportation from the United States of citizens of SICA countries, taking the following elements into account:

A. Early exchange of information on any criminal activities in which deportees may be involved;

B. Maintenance of temporary protected status for the citizens of SICA countries, where it already exists, and its extension to any countries that request it as a means of combating the impact of a global financial crisis;

C. Signature of an agreement allowing citizens of SICA countries who are subject to deportation and are serving a sentence in the United States to serve it in their countries of origin; and

D. In coordination with United States employers, establishment of a quota mechanism for hiring agricultural workers who are nationals of SICA countries;

5. Increased financial and technical cooperation for effective implementation of the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico; and

6. Increased cooperation in combating drug trafficking and organized crime.

The declaration is signed by the Presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, the Dominican Republic (as an observer) and Belize.

United Nations A/63/856

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 April 2009
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Sixty-third session
Agenda items 48 and 107

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 20 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to write to you in reference to the seventh Summit of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), held in Cumaná, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 16 and 17 April 2009.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and believes that the United Nations is the primary multilateral forum for tackling the challenges faced by the international community.

In that connection, I have the honour to attach herewith copies of the following documents, adopted at the seventh ALBA Summit:

- Document of the countries of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas presented at the Fifth Summit of the Americas (see annex);
- Declaration of the Fifth Extraordinary Summit of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) — People's Trade Agreement (TCP) (see appendix).

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as official documents of the General Assembly.

We propose that the above-mentioned documents be considered under agenda item 48, Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference and agenda item 107: Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, respectively.

(Signed) Jorge **Valero**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Document of the countries of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) presented at the Fifth Summit of the Americas

Cumaná, 17 April 2009

The Heads of State and Government of Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), member countries of ALBA, believe that the draft Declaration of the Fifth Summit of the Americas is inadequate and unacceptable for the following reasons:

It does not proffer solutions to the global economic crisis, despite the fact that the crisis is the most daunting challenge to confront humanity in decades and the most significant threat to the well-being of our peoples in our time.

It unjustly excludes Cuba, and makes no mention of the general consensus in the regional condemning the embargo and attempted isolation that the Cuban people and Government have been relentlessly and criminally subjected to.

For this reason, the member countries of ALBA believe that there is no consensus on adopting this draft Declaration, and, in view of the foregoing, we propose an in-depth debate on the following issues:

1. Capitalism is destroying humanity and the planet. We are facing not just another cyclical crisis, but rather a global economic crisis that is systemic and structural in nature. Those who think that an infusion of tax monies and a few regulatory measures will resolve this crisis are seriously mistaken. The financial system is in crisis because it lists paper securities at six times the real value of property and services produced in the world. This is no "failure in the regulation of the system"; rather, it is an integral part of the capitalist system, which speculates on all property and securities in order to obtain maximum profit. Thus far, 100 million more people are hungry and 50 million more are unemployed as a result of the economic crisis — and these figures continue to rise.

2. Capitalism has caused an ecological crisis by subjugating the resources essential to survival on the planet to market and profit imperatives. Each year, human beings consume a third more than what the planet is capable of replenishing. If such wasteful capitalist consumption persists at this rate, we will need two planet Earths by the year 2030.

3. The global economic, climate, food and energy crises are products of capitalist decadence, which threatens to annihilate life on the planet and the planet itself. In order to avoid that outcome, it will be necessary to develop an alternative to the capitalist model, a model that promotes:

- Solidarity and complementarity over competition;
- Harmonious coexistence with our mother Earth rather than pillaging of natural resources;

- Cultural diversity instead of cultural levelling and imposition of cultural values and ways of life alien to the realities of our countries;
- Peace based on social justice, not on imperialist policies and wars;
- In short, a system that restores the human condition of our societies and peoples and does not reduce them to mere consumers or merchandise.

4. As a tangible expression of the continent's new reality, we, the Latin American and Caribbean countries, have begun to build our own institutionality, rooted in our common history going back to our wars of independence and a concrete tool for deepening the social, economic and cultural transformation processes necessary to consolidate our full sovereignty. ALBA-TCP, Petrocaribe and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), to name only the newest entities, are mechanisms for union and solidarity created in the heat of these sweeping changes with the clear aim of empowering our Peoples to achieve their own liberation. To cope with the serious impact of the global economic crisis, we, the ALBA-TCP countries, have taken innovative and transforming measures to find genuine alternatives to the inadequate international economic order rather than strengthen its failed institutions. Thus, we have initiated a Single Regional Compensation System (SUCRE), which includes a Common Account Unit, a Clearinghouse and a Single Reserve System. We have also promoted the establishment of "grannational" enterprises to satisfy the basic needs of our peoples through mechanisms for fair and complementary trade untainted by the absurd mentality of unbridled competition.

5. We call into question the Group of Twenty (G-20) decision to triple the resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when what is really needed is a new global economic order that provides for the overhaul of IMF, the World Bank and WTO, which, with their neoliberal conditionalities, have helped to bring on this global economic crisis.

6. Solutions to the global economic crisis and the definition of new international financial architecture must be adopted with the participation of the 192 countries that will gather at the United Nations Conference at the Highest Level on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, to be held from 1 to 3 June, to propose the creation of a new international economic order.

7. As for the climate change crisis, the developed countries have an ecological debt towards the world, as they are responsible for 70 per cent of the historic carbon emissions accumulated in the atmosphere since 1750. The developed countries, which are debtors towards humanity and the planet, must contribute significant resources to a fund that will enable the developing countries to adopt a model of growth that does not replicate the serious effects of capitalist industrialization.

8. Solutions to the energy, food and climate change crises must be comprehensive and interdependent. We cannot resolve a problem by causing others in areas that are fundamental to life itself. For example, the widespread use of agrofuels can only have a negative impact on food prices and on the use of vital resources such as water, land and forests.

9. We condemn any form of discrimination against immigrants. Immigration is a human right, not a crime. We therefore call for urgent reform of the United States Government's immigration policies with a view to halting deportations and massive raids and enabling families to be reunited, and we call for the elimination of the wall that separates and divides us instead of uniting us. In this connection, we call for the

repeal of the Cuban Adjustment Act and the elimination of the discriminatory and selective wet-foot, dry-foot policy, which have caused loss of human life. The real culprits in the financial crisis are the bankers who have helped themselves to our countries' money and resources, and not the migrant workers. Human rights come first, and, in particular, the human rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized sector of our society — undocumented immigrants. If integration is to be achieved, there must be freedom of movement of persons and human rights for all on an equal basis regardless of their immigration status. The brain drain is another way in which qualified human resources are plundered by the rich countries.

10. The basic services of education, health, water, energy and telecommunications must be declared human rights and not be subject to private negotiation or commercialized through the World Trade Organization (WTO). These services are and must be essentially public services, and access to them must be universal.

11. We hope for a world where all countries, great and small, have the same rights and where there are no empires. We are for non-intervention. We are for strengthening — as the sole legitimate basis for discussion and analysis of the continent's bilateral and multilateral agendas — mutual respect between States and Governments, in accordance with the principle of non-intervention by one State in the affairs of another State and the inviolability of sovereignty and self-determination of peoples. We exhort the new Government of the United States, whose arrival in office has kindled expectations in the region and in the world, to put an end to the long and damaging tradition of interventionism and aggression which has characterized the actions of that country's Government down through history, and in particular, the intensification of such practices during the administration of George W. Bush. It should also do away with interventionist practices, including covert operations, parallel diplomacy, media pressure to destabilize States and Governments and the financing of destabilizing groups. It is crucial to build a world where the diversity of economic, political, social and cultural approaches is recognized and respected.

12. With regard to the United States embargo against Cuba and the exclusion of Cuba from the Summit of the Americas, the countries of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas reiterate the Declaration on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba, including the application of the so-called Helms-Burton Act, adopted by all the Latin American and Caribbean countries on 16 December 2000. The following are among its key provisions:

> "**CONSIDERING:** the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, and the statements on it adopted at numerous international meetings,
>
> "**WE AFFIRM**, in the defence of free trade and transparency in international trade, that the application of unilateral coercive measures that affect the well-being of peoples and hamper integration processes is unacceptable;
>
> "**WE REJECT** in the strongest terms the application of laws and measures that are contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, and urge the Government of the United States of America to cease applying it.

"**WE REQUEST** the Government of the United States of America to comply with the provisions of the 17 successive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations and to end its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba."

We also believe that efforts to push Cuba into isolation have failed, as Cuba today is an integral part of the Latin American and Caribbean region and a member of the Rio Group and other regional organizations and mechanisms, engages in a policy of cooperation and solidarity with the countries of the region and promotes the full integration of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples. Thus, there are absolutely no grounds for its exclusion from the Summit of the Americas.

13. The developed countries have allocated no less than $8 trillion to salvage the collapsed financial structure. They are the ones who have not delivered on their pledge to allocate a little something towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, or 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product for official development assistance. Never before has the hypocrisy of the rich countries' rhetoric been laid bare to such an extent. Cooperation must be established without conditions and it must be adapted to the agendas of the recipient countries by simplifying procedures, making resources accessible and highlighting social inclusion issues.

14. The legitimate struggle against drug trafficking, organized crime or any other manifestation of the so-called "new threats" must not be utilized as a pretext for interference and intervention harmful to our countries.

15. We are firmly convinced that only some of the organization, mobilization and unity of our peoples can bring change that everyone can believe in.

As the Liberator said:

"Unity of our peoples is not a mere illusion of men, but the inexorable decree of destiny."

Simón Bolívar